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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,181	02/07/2002	Jae Duck Kim	9794440-1000	1291

26263 7590 09/03/2003

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EXAMINER

DICUS, TAMRA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1774

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/072,181

Applicant(s)

KIM, JAE DUCK

Examiner

Tamra L. Dicus

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 39-61 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

The election of Group I, claims 1-38 are acknowledged.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 14 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claims 14 and 28 recite the limitation "the release paper". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,262,215 to Shields.

Shields teaches the following: a top layer 16 includes top sheet 20 composed of paper having indicia 22 (another/other image)) imprinted on top surface 24 thereof and also includes low tack, semi-permanent, pressure sensitive adhesive 26 on bottom surface 28 thereof.

Additionally, top layer 16 is preferably die cut in order to present a plurality of separable "stickers" or pieces 30 within matrix 32 (equivalent to "adhesive is formed in a shape similar to

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image"). Indicia 22 are configured in a manner to cooperate with (equivalent to similar or identical) indicia 42 (image) imprinted on carrier sheet 14. Pieces 30 form an exemplary illustration, as best seen in FIG. 4, representing humorous facial features for cooperative placement on the corresponding facial outline seen as the indicia 42 imprinted on carrier sheet 14. A wide variety of indicia for pieces 30 and sheet 14 which can include, for example, game components for tic-tac-toe or checkers, or components to create a scene in cooperation with indicia on sheet 14. Support layer 18 is preferably release paper and includes support sheet 34 composed of paper having release coating 36 on upper surface 38 thereof. Adhesive 26 releasably adheres bottom surface 28 and thereby top layer 16 to upper surface 38 of support layer 18. See col. 2, lines 3-30. Carrier 14 of paper includes a release coating 44. At, col. 2, line 35 and col. 3, line 14 releasing coating/agent is known to be of silicon.

Regarding claims 3-5 and 8 the process limitations "is formed by a silk screen process" and "is printed on the surface by offset printing..." are not dispositive of the issue of patentability of the present article claims.

At col. 2, line 42, carrier 14 comprises a water based resin polyvinyl acetate, inclusive of an acrylic acid ester polymer (meeting claims 7, 9, 10).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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7. Claims 6 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,262,215 to Shields in view of USPN 6,110,317 to Sandor.

8. Shields essentially teaches the claimed invention above. Shields does not teach a plurality of base layers. However Sandor teaches a decorative design method and product may comprise a plurality of base layers in order to provide an unique dimensional effect at col. 6, lines 32-43.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the laminated article of Shields to further include a plurality of base sheets since Sandor teaches doing so provides an unique dimensional effect as cited above.

9. Shields does not teach a base layer being either transparent or opaque (claims 11-12). However, Sandor teaches where base layers such as release paper may be of clear plastic webs (equivalent to transparent base layer) and may also be opaque at col. 3, lines 27-30. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the laminated article of Shields to include transparent or opaque base layers since Sandor teaches the two types are conventional release papers as cited above.

10. Claims 13-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,262,215 to Shields in view of USPN 6,110,317 to Sandor.

11. Shields teaches the following: a top layer 16 includes top sheet 20 composed of paper having indicia 22 (another/other image)) imprinted on top surface 24 thereof and also includes low tack, semi-permanent, pressure sensitive adhesive 26 on bottom surface 28 thereof.

Additionally, top layer 16 is preferably die cut in order to present a plurality of separable "stickers" or pieces 30 within matrix 32 (equivalent to "adhesive is formed in a shape similar to image"). Indicia 22 are configured in a manner to cooperate with (equivalent to similar or

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identical-instant claims 26 and 27) indicia 42 (image) imprinted on carrier sheet 14. Pieces 30 form an exemplary illustration, as best seen in FIG. 4, representing humorous facial features for cooperative placement on the corresponding facial outline seen as the indicia 42 imprinted on carrier sheet 14. A wide variety of indicia for pieces 30 and sheet 14 which can include, for example, game components for tic-tac-toe or checkers, or components to create a scene in cooperation with indicia on sheet 14. Support layer 18 is preferably release paper and includes support sheet 34 composed of paper having release coating 36 on upper surface 38 thereof. Adhesive 26 releasably adheres bottom surface 28 and thereby top layer 16 to upper surface 38 of support layer 18. See col. 2, lines 3-30. Carrier 14 of paper includes a release coating 44.

12. At, col. 2, line 35 and col. 3, line 14 releasing coating/agent is known to be of silicon (meeting claims 14 and 28).

13. Regarding claims 15-17, 20, 29-31, and 34, the process limitations "is formed by a silk screen process" and "is printed on the surface by offset printing..." are not dispositive of the issue of patentability of the present article claims.

14. At col. 2, line 42, carrier 14 comprises a water based resin polyvinyl acetate, inclusive of an acrylic acid ester polymer (meeting claims 19, 21-22, 33, 35-36).

15. Regarding claims 13 and 25, Shields does not teach over two images/decals, nor that the sheet comprises a plurality of base layers (claims 18 and 32). However, Sandor teaches a decorative design method and product may comprise a plurality of base layers in order to provide an unique dimensional effect. The base layers contain a first and second design on each release sheet. See col. 6, lines 32-43. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the laminated article of Shields to further include a plurality of base sheets

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having designs since Sandor teaches doing so provides an unique dimensional effect as cited above.

Shields does not teach a base layer being either transparent or opaque (claims 23, 24, 37, 38). However, Sandor teaches where base layers such as release paper may be of clear plastic webs (equivalent to transparent base layer) and may also be opaque at col. 3, lines 27-30.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the laminated article of Shields to include transparent or opaque base layers since Sandor teaches the two types are conventional release papers as cited above.

#### *Conclusion*

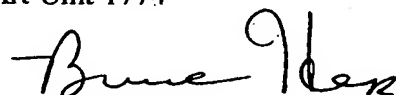
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamra L. Dicus whose telephone number is (703) 305-3809. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-4:30 p.m., alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on (703) 308-0449. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

August 19, 2003

Tamra L. Dicus  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1774



BRUCE H. HESS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER